

HOUSE BILL 2651

By Godsey

AN ACT to name a segment of U.S. Highway 11E in the City of Bristol, Sullivan County in honor of the late Larry Carrier.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those exemplary public servants who contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Larry Carrier, whose achievements as an entrepreneur, sportsman, and philanthropist are legendary; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of the Bristol area, Mr. Carrier is perhaps best known for building, owning, and operating the Bristol International Speedway, which is now known as the Bristol Motor Speedway (BMS); and

WHEREAS, the racetrack hosted its first NASCAR-sanctioned race in 1961, and due to Mr. Carrier's singular vision, astute management, and inspired leadership, the Bristol Motor Speedway soon became the fans' favorite NASCAR racetrack, a distinction that BMS continues to hold today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carrier excelled in many business ventures during his lifetime, but he was especially renowned for his successes in the sporting arena; and

WHEREAS, in addition to owning and operating the most popular automobile racetrack in this nation, Mr. Carrier was the founder of the International Hot Rod Association and the World Boxing Federation, which grew to sanction events in forty-eight foreign countries as well as the United States, with offices in London and Melbourne; and

WHEREAS, honored many times for his accomplishments in stock car racing, Mr. Carrier was the first inductee into the Citizens Hall of Fame in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carrier was later honored by his induction into two other prestigious bodies: the East Tennessee Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, realizing that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, Mr. Carrier eagerly embraced the challenges of civic duty; he generously supported local youth programs and the Bristol Rescue Mission and contributed to his community in many other ways; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable gentleman served his country as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, throughout all his endeavors, Larry Carrier was a person of keen business acumen, good common sense, and irreproachable integrity, and he worked assiduously to establish a brighter future for his fellow citizens of Bristol and Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, the Bristol, Tennessee City Council has petitioned this body to name a segment of U. S. Highway 11E in their fair city in honor of Mr. Carrier to permanently commemorate his bountiful life of purpose and achievement and his long and distinguished record of success in business coupled with a stalwart commitment to community service; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the segment of U. S. Highway 11E in the City of Bristol, Sullivan County, Tennessee from the bridge at such route's intersection with State Route 394 to its intersection with Exide Drive is hereby designated the "Larry Carrier Memorial Parkway - Founder of Bristol International Speedway" as a lasting tribute to an accomplished entrepreneur and sportsman and even finer human being.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of U.S. Highway 11E described in Section 1 as the "Larry Carrier Memorial Parkway - Founder of Bristol International Speedway".

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5.

(a) This act shall become operative only if the City of Bristol, Tennessee, either remits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the department of transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this act or manufactures such signs in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b). The City of Bristol shall make such payment prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the City of Bristol within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, then the City of Bristol shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

(b) The City of Bristol, Tennessee may manufacture and erect such signs provided that such signs are manufactured and erected pursuant to state and federal guidelines and approved by the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.